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Statement submitted by Grameen Development & Poverty Alleviation Sangstha (GDPAS), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Introduction:

GDPAS has been committed to poverty alleviation as the of name GDPAS includes "Poverty Alleviation" and the initial spirit of our organizing GDPAS has been based on poverty alleviation, mission, vision and objectives indicate main goal of Poverty Alleviation. In the southern coastal belt location, target locations are island type silted river bed area called Char, being lived by people 3 times more under the poverty line than other parts of Bangladesh, it means when 17% people are considered under poverty line in Bangladesh, in Char area it is almost 50%. So, malnutrition, child & pregnant mother mortality, illiteracy, lack of skill, child girls marriage, migration, sexual abuse, gender based violence is higher than other area of Bangladesh. So, strategies for poverty alleviation based on integrated approach rather than any specific intervention such as to reach the goal of sustainable income generation for poverty alleviation, we must take account having them being organized, motivated in groups followed by group ability for members' savings, much mobilized in human development motivation, practical accounting perception generation, group based educational support to members, human development training mainly rights, awareness of equal gender rights, safe water, healthy sanitation, Hygiene, primary healthcare, proper nutritional knowledge, immunization, child education, prevention of violence against women, awareness stop forced child girls marriage and finally professional skill development leads to sustainable poverty reduction or poverty alleviation successfully preferable support services, small loan or micro credit, market promotion. Some major prerequisites are there to ensure poverty alleviation as a integrated result, because studies and experiences reveals that jump to micro credit support with minimum skills or no professional skills for income generation expecting reduction of poverty can only be impacted to poor beneficiaries to be loaded with much loan which on contrary increase their poverty as well as miseries and finally are seen to uprooted or migrated to lead the most miserable lives. So, the objectives of our work for poverty alleviation clearly emphasized how sustainable poverty alleviation can be ensured.

Objectives of the statement:

a) To organize the target vulnerable people living under the poverty line, in groups, to start disciplined group actions such as conducting weekly meeting, savings operation to form personal capital, discussing various topics like identifying reasons of poverty as well as various issues contribute to their poverty and miseries as well as identifying how to mitigate such sufferings being caused due to poverty and lack of awareness.

b) To Conduct of Group level orientations/training/educational sessions on accounting, some alphabetical or numerical concepts, realization of group strength which ultimately leads to sustainable poverty reduction. To aware them their rights, claiming that on group base, mobilize preservation of rights and participation of equal gender base decision making process at family and social level.

c) To explore various locally viable or local market based income prospects can be addressed by the group members, identification of abilities or interest of group individual members, need of more skill and operation of specific skill or capacity building training exploiting local resources, local market potential to the members, so that their professionalism can be developed which ultimately inspire them and lead them to advance with confidence and capabilities for their sustainable poverty reduction process holding the group strength and unity as a base to tackle the challenge being encountered and ensure the sustainable development process.

d) To enable them or the groups to add more support with their capital already formed from the savings, from support services if available as well as from micro credit program after clear orientation to each member how to handle and refunding the loan which may ultimately be increased as they walk to successful income generation process for their sustainable development for poverty alleviation.

e) To ensure proper monitoring, evaluation and follow up process by the groups as well as concerned NGOs so that sustainable income generation securing process can be adhered with or be ensured.

Purpose of the statement:

The purpose of the statement to ensure Sustainable Development Eradication of Poverty of the target vulnerable groups of people mostly very poor or living under the poverty line. Here sustainable development refers that target people are so skilled, capable, aware and concerned to encounter the challenges with their own abilities, initiatives, unity, planning that they eradicate their poverty by themselves which sharply go straight to change them to improved standard of living, health education, dignity, rights and motivation in family or social context and NGOs can play role of a catalyst to sustainable development.

Overview of the issue as it relates to the work of the NGO:

As GDPAS name refers, we have been contributing best of our services for poverty alleviation to achieve sustainable development goal, as UNO as well as Bangladesh is committed to achieve the sustainable development goal by the year 2030 and to the context of Bangladesh, as far NGOs like GDPAS are concerned of reaching that goal, we will reach our target and it also is proved by the recent poverty alleviation statics as it goes down rapidly in recent years and now only 17% people are considered live under poverty line and Bangladesh Government & NGOs are determined to reduce poverty line to % as well as economic GDP growth by Bangladesh that Bangladesh will become middle income country by 2021 and developed country by 2041 and GDP growth now has touched 57 points. GDPAS has been operating in the coastal belt CHAR region where people live under poverty line 3 times more than other areas of Bangladesh. GDPAS has wide range of expertise especially the intervention to vulnerable women and children with special priority and GDPAS has been successful to that level extraordinarily in vulnerable child education, women empowerment, prevention of domestic violence against women, sustainable income generation, WASH, prevention of child marriage, skill development, livelihood development, primary healthcare, tree plantation, waste management, grant program for disadvantaged pregnant women etc. and as a result people mainly women are empowered, child education flourished, sustainable livelihood development for poverty alleviation.

Examples of accomplishments:

a) GDPAS has great accomplishment of poverty reduction of vulnerable families by empowering the venerable rural and Char women, in the project vulnerable group development (women), for rural vulnerable women, has been operating still in 4 terms (2 years each term) financial supported by Bangladesh Government Women Affairs Directorate, GDPAS has been operating in joint collaboration, the project mainly targeted for savings operation, skill development, financial support services to trained women to enable them to generate sustainable income and so far we have successful to bring 12,000 approx. poor families out of poverty line by empowering 12,000 women, thus this wonderful project, empowered women, ushered women leadership at grassroots level, alleviated or reduced poverty.

b) Livelihood development by sustainable food production: GDPAS has been operating with the funding support from Bangladesh Government Ministry of Agriculture from 2000 to date, which facilitate more than 35,000 rural poor and marginalized farmers from 35,000 families to get sustainable irrigation support as their crop production multiplied in several folds, and these families have come out of poverty.

Remaining challenges:

GDPAS has been committed to participate with United Nations and Bangladesh Government to achieve sustainable development goal by the year 2030 and it is biggest challenge to GDPAS at the present to reach that goal so that Bangladesh can claim that we have reached that goal and to get to that goal we need more funding support, so getting potential funding support to meet this challenge itself one other challenge we have been striving to.

GDPAS expectation to United Nations, ECOSOC and other bodies of United Nations is to generate more funding support to GDPAS for Eradication of Poverty to achieve Sustainable Development for all.

GDPAS is committed to poverty alleviation from the inception and our next step to that lead our target mass to sustainable development so that the poverty alleviation can be result and every moment we have been spending to have a dream to make Bangladesh free of poverty as well as join our efforts for poverty alleviation in the entire world as well.